

Board of Public Education

State of Montana



Agency Profile

Sept. 2006

This agency profile will discuss...

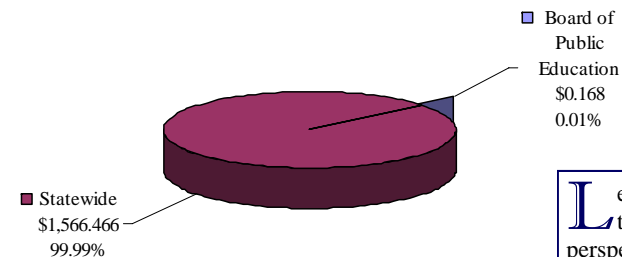
- structure and funding
- primary functions and
- historical expenditures

The profile also includes information on how decisionmakers can effect change in the agency's expenditures along with a listing of pertinent statistics. For an explanation of terms used in this profile, consult the "Background on the Agency Profiles" at: <http://leg.mt.gov/css/fiscal/default.asp>

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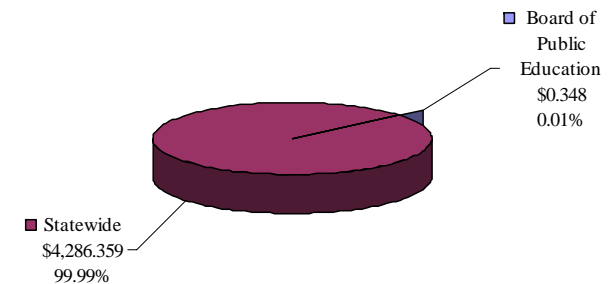


General Fund Statewide Comparison FY 2006 (In Millions)



Let's begin by putting the agency's size in perspective by comparing it to state government as a whole.

Total Funds Statewide Comparison FY 2006 (In Millions)



250 copies of this public document were published at an estimated cost of \$3.50 per copy, for a total cost of \$875.00. This includes \$875.00 for printing and \$0.00 for distribution.

Legislative Fiscal Division



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Section E
Education



What the Agency Does

The Board of Public Education is charged with general supervision of the public school system and other public institutions assigned by law, including the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind. Located in Helena, Montana, the board cooperates with the Governor and other elected officials, the Board of Regents, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, local school boards, the education community, and all Montana citizens, including its students. The Board of Public Education and the Board of Regents meet twice a year as the Board of Education.



How Services Are Provided

The Board of Public Education is a seven-member group, appointed by the Governor, that exercises general supervision over the public school system in Montana, including the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind. It oversees all K-12 education, sets policy, and is responsible for school accreditation standards and content standards. It monitors schools to ensure that teaching, testing, and school standards are met. The board provides services through a structure consisting of two divisions and a staff of 4.00 FTE with the following functions:

- Administration supports the efforts of the board and the advisory council by providing research, clerical functions, and management of business affairs for all programs under the purview of the Board of Education.
- The seven-member Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council was created in 1987 to study and make recommendations to the Board of Public Education regarding: (1) teacher, administrator, and specialist certification standards; (2) the status and efficacy of approved teacher education programs; and (3) the feasibility of establishing teaching certification and the appeals process.
- The Montana Advisory Council for Indian Education is attached to the Board of Public Education. This council advises the board and the Superintendent of Public Schools on Indian education.



Statewide Factors With Impact

In addition to the factors above, a number of factors common to many agencies will also impact changes in expenditures over time.

The Board of Public Education equals people providing service; personal service costs are the primary influence that drives expenditures. These factors include the state pay plan and benefits, workers' compensation, and unemployment insurance.

Other factors driving expenses include utilities and changes in statewide fixed costs, such as inflation/deflation and the cost to maintain buildings and technology.



Statutory References

The primary statutory references defining duties and responsibilities of the department are found at the following locations.

Article X, section 9, of the Constitution defines the duties of the Board of Public Education

The board's shared responsibilities with the Board of Regents are discussed in Title 20, chapter 2, MCA

The CSPAC is created in 2-15-1522, MCA

20-4-109, MCA, sets the fee for teacher and specialist certificates and its administration by the Office of Public Instruction

Agency Functions, State Purposes, & Customers Served

The agency is structured to perform certain functions in support of general state government purposes. The following lists the major functions, purpose of provision of the functions, and primary customers served.

State Purposes	Major Agency Functions	Customers
<i>Develop the full educational potential of the state's citizens</i>	Board activities and administration assesses the public education system	The board and the general public
	CSPAC sets teaching standards and oversees the status and efficacy of approved teacher education programs	All participants in the process of education, including students, families, and communities



How the Legislature Can Effect Change

The seven-member Board of Public Education addresses its mandated duties with the assistance of four staff members. The level of on-going activity related to mandated duties and educational issues governs activity for this agency.

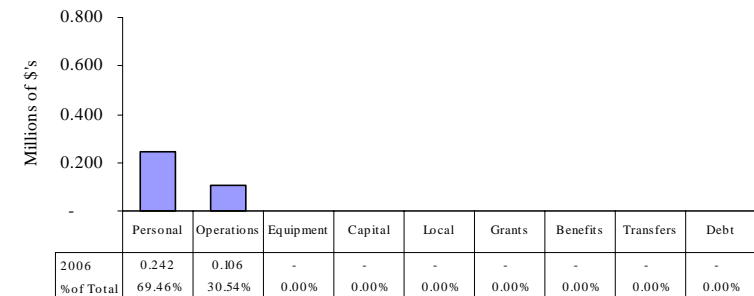
In order to change expenditure levels and/or activity, the legislature might address laws:

- Governing the existence, design, staffing, and funding of the Board of Public Education
- Governing K-12 education related to policy, school accreditation standards, and oversight responsibility for monitor teaching, testing, and school standards

The legislature is less likely to control:

- The number of complaints that merit Board of Public Education action
- Federal legislation impacting the educational system
- Initiatives or legislation responding to citizen action
- Population growth or decline
- Economic factors' contribution to local funding of school districts

**Board of Public Education Level History
All Funds FY 2006**



How Services Are Funded

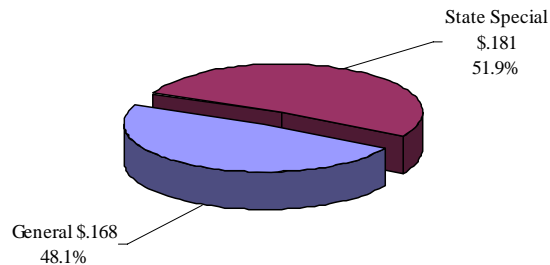
General Fund is used to partially support the Administration Division of the Board of Public Education.

State Special Funds:

Teacher certification fees of \$30 are charged at the initial time of certification and once every 5 years thereafter. The fee averages \$6.00 per year, and, by statute, the Office of Public Instruction (OPI) Certification/Teacher Licensure Unit is responsible for collecting fees and depositing them in two state special revenue accounts for use by the board. \$4 is used for expenses of the Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council (CSPAC) and \$2 is used for activities in support of the board's constitutional and statutory duties, special projects, and research studies of the CSPAC. In FY 2006, 27.5 percent of these fees was used to support the Administrative Program and CSPAC.

Federal Funds:

The Board of Public Education does not receive federal funding for its operations. However, in FY 2004 and FY 2005, the agency received a one-time-only amount of \$25,000 from the Jobs and Growth Tax Relief Act.

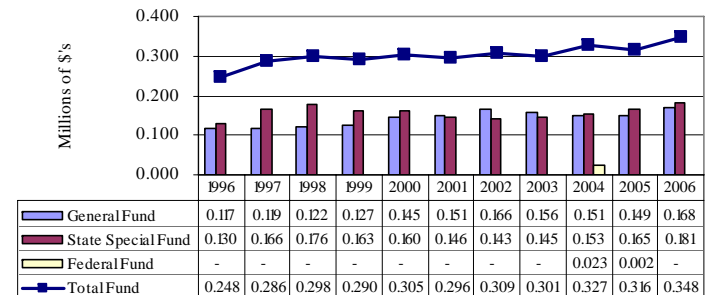
Board of Public Education Funding History
All First Level FY 2006

Related Data & Statistics

Element	2001	2005	Significance of Data
Supervised school districts	460	437	Decreased workload
Certified educators	12,097	12,098	Increased workload and potential revenue
Spending/student	\$6,812	\$8,228	Reflects attention to funding and standards and/or declining enrollment to education dollars in some areas
Student/teacher ratio	14.9 to 1	14.3 to 1	Reflects enrollment to teachers
Board meetings/year	8	8	Consistent expenditures, workload
Teacher preparation/education/certification sessions	4	4	No change in number of sessions, but a definite increase in complexity of sessions and issues due to No Child Left Behind legislation and related data collection about qualification of teachers in subject areas
No Child Left Behind issues	0	Now 50% of staff time	Workload increase



Expenditure History

Board of Public Education Funding History
All First Level

Reasons for Expenditure Growth/Change

- General Fund - FY 2002 shows a significant increase in expenditures due to membership dues for the National Association of State Boards of Education as well as software and hardware upgrades that occurred during 2002. FY 2006 shows another significant increase in expenditures due to increases in the cost of personal services, travel for MACIE members to attend the Board of Education meetings, out-of-state travel for board members to travel to national Association of State Boards of Education meetings and travel for the Board of Education meetings with the Board of Regents.
- State Special Fund – From FY 1998 through FY 2000, the agency saw the rate of expenditure decrease significantly in areas funded by state special revenue from teacher certification fees. The agency reduced the number of FTE in FY 2000 in response to a reduction in the collection of the fees, which decreased because of a decrease in the statewide teacher population. Teacher certification fees have not been increased in the last several biennia.
- Federal Fund – This agency does not receive federal funds. However, in FY 2004 and FY 2005, the board, along with other state agencies, received Jobs and Growth Tax Relief Act funds. The board's allotment was \$25,000.